

The following letter signed by more than 50 concerned citizens has been sent to the President of Sinclair Broadcasting.

>From: "Dave Orens" <dorens@hotmail.com>

>To: comments@sbgi.net

>Subject: Attn: David Smith

>Date: Wed, 13 Oct 2004 18:16:51 +0000

>

>October 13, 2004

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>David D. Smith

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>President and Chief Executive Officer

>Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

>10706 Beaver Dam Road

>Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030

>

>Dear Mr. Smith:

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>We, the undersigned, are writing to ask that you cancel plans reported October 11th by CNN to air a film attacking Senator Kerry on stations of the Sinclair Broadcasting Group.

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>We were astonished to read that you are forcing all of your stations to air the film "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal." In light of your recent move to prevent several of these same stations from airing the "Nightline" episode where Ted Koppel read the names of soldiers killed in Iraq, and having read news reports that many of your company's top executives are strong financial supporters of the Bush campaign, we can only assume that you are attempting to make a political statement by airing this "infomercial" for the Republican Party.

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>While acknowledging your right to your own political views, we feel compelled to remind you that the airwaves are in the public domain. Therefore, while some may compare the airing of "Stolen Honor" to Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," Moore's film was available only to those willing to pay, not broadcast freely over the airwaves. The fact that the show is scheduled to air in primetime, without commercials, and within weeks of the election, and that many of the stations are in swing states, causes us to conclude that you are using your stations to try to influence the upcoming election.

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>At best this is an abuse of your responsibility to the public, and it is very likely a violation of the FCC regulations requiring broadcasters to provide equal time to the major candidates in an election. It was striking to read in one article that you claim that the program is a news event and therefore not subject to the FCC regulations mentioned above. This assertion is remarkable given your prior statements that the "Nightline" episode you refused to air was "disguising political statements as news content." We sincerely hope that what you describe on your website as an "unscripted event" will not include the airing of this film, produced by someone who is apparently a former Bush administration official.

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>Should you choose to broadcast this movie, we hope that you have considered the impact on your future advertising revenue. Although we are a small group of individuals at this point, we are connected with thousands of like-minded consumers via internet organizations, and we plan to continue spreading word of your actions as far as we can. Though we cannot control your broadcasting, we can control our viewing and buying, and we hope to show you that such blatant abuses of the public trust will not be tolerated. Regardless of the outcome of the election, you can rest assured that we will make every effort to inform as many progressive-minded individuals as possible of your actions, and that we are prepared to organize boycotts of your local and national advertisers. This letter is therefore being copied to a number of companies in your national advertising market who are also listed in an index of socially responsible investments. These companies may be particularly interested in your actions.

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>We look forward to a response from Sinclair Broadcasting and we will be watching the airwaves to see what your decision has been.

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>Respectfully,

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>Cc: Circuit City Stores, Inc.
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